
SHELTON STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

50th Anniversary Jubilee

CLOCK TOWER
DEDICATION

Wednesday, April 23

11:00 a.m.

Martin Campus



50th Anniversary Jubilee
CLOCK TOWER DEDICATION

PRELUDE

Shelton Brass Ensemble
Directed by Dr. Alan Blackshear

ONE MOMENT IN TIME

Jennifer Huggins accompanied by Syble Coats

WELCOME

Sandra Ray
Alabama State Board of Education District VII

GREETINGS

Tommy Hester
Shelton State Community College Foundation

**THE LEGACY WE LEAVE
AS WE DEDICATE THIS TOWER**

Jennifer Taylor

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Dr. Rick Rogers, President

REMARKS

Dr. Roy Johnson, Chancellor Alabama College System

INAUGURAL RINGING OF THE BELLS AT 12 NOON

Lunch to follow

Today's dedication of Shelton State Community College's new clock tower marks the closing of the college's eight-month 50th anniversary celebration. The tower represents not only the college's past, but its future. It serves as a permanent reminder and lasting landmark of the Shelton State Jubilee.

This 55 - foot tower encompasses 24 cast bronze bells. Each bell was handcrafted using a custom made mold that was destroyed after the bell was cast. The bell was then tuned by testing with traditional tuning forks and sophisticated electronic instruments.

Shelton State's clock tower includes a custom-designed Renaissance Carillon that provides touch-screen technology, allowing someone to play the purest emulation of cast bronze bells that are equivalent to a full range, 61 note, five octave cast bell carillon. Along with traditional clock chime melodies and hour strike variations, the clock tower offers the opportunity for an individual to play live from within the atrium or record performances for special occasions.

The contractor, the van Bergen Company, is based out of Charleston, South Carolina. Established in 1795, the van Bergen Company represents the famous Paccard Bellfoundry in Annecy, France, and prides itself on providing the highest quality in tuned cast bronze bells, clocks and bell towers. Examples of carillon installments include: St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY; Clemson University, S.C.; National Shrine, D.C.; Birmingham Southern College, AL; University of North Alabama, AL.

As with all of Shelton State's endeavors, members of the West Alabama community played an important role in the completion of the clock tower. Hall-Taylor Construction, Mills Electric, King & Spencer Painting, Jeffco Concrete, Bruce Jones Masonry and Deason Sheet Metal were all crucial members of the clock tower team.

The history of Shelton State Community College dates back to 1947 when a young legislator, the late Governor George C. Wallace, introduced legislation in the Alabama House of Representatives that established four trade schools in the state. In 1950, the Alabama State Board of Education selected Tuscaloosa as the site of the third of those schools.

The trade school campus was built where Home Depot and Target now stand on Veterans Memorial Parkway. The trade school's first classes began in October 1953 with 82 students enrolled. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accredited the school during the 1970s, and the name was changed from J. P. Shelton Trade School to Shelton State Technical College.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the community college movement emerged as an educational force in this country. In the early 1970s, Brewer State Junior College in Fayette, Alabama, began offering courses in Tuscaloosa and, eventually, established a branch campus in the city. By 1979, the Tuscaloosa campus had more students than the main home campus in Fayette. In 1979, the Tuscaloosa Branch of Brewer State Junior College and Shelton State Technical College were joined, and Shelton State Community College was born.

The college's technical programs continued to be located on the original campus while the academic programs were being offered in a portion of strip mall located on Skyland Boulevard. During the 1980s, the Alabama Fire College, which was housed in a building on McFarland Boulevard, became part of Shelton State Community College.

In 1963, C.A. Fredd State Technical College was established in west Tuscaloosa and operated as an independent institution until it was merged with Shelton State Community College in the early 1990s.

Shelton State's dream of a new and larger campus to hold its growing student population began to materialize by the late 1980s when the college purchased 110 acres in south Tuscaloosa County. Plans were developed and ground was broken for the new campus in 1994. By 1997, the programs, activities, and operations of both the 15th Street Campus and the Skyland Campus had moved into their new home. The Alabama State Fire College moved its operations into its new facility in 1998.

Today Shelton State Community College has almost 7,000 students and is the second largest two-year college in the state.